GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3908
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
CLASSIFICATION OF PLANTS
Patel Shri Prahlad Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of plant varieties identified in the country ;

(b) whether Government has made any model for classification of plants ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the importance given to ancient texts like Charaka Samhita in identifying and classifying medicinal plants in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Botanical Survey of India (BSI), mandated for survey of floral diversity of the country and its documentation has so far, identified 47513 species comprising Virus/ Bacteria (1036), Algae (7284), Fungi (14883), Lichens (2401), Bryophytes (2523), Pteridophytes (1268), Gymnosperms (75) and Angiosperms (18043).

(b)& (c) BSI has been following different scientific systems accepted world-wide for classification of different groups of plants in the country. The details are as follows:

Type of plants	System of Classification followed by BSI with certain modifications
Flowering Plants	Bentham & Hooker System of Classification
Non Flowering Plants	Fern & Fern Allies Pichi – Sermolli's System of Classification
	Bryophyta (Moss) Goffinet System of Classification
	Marchantiophyta (Liverwort) Crandall-Stotler et al System of Classification
	Anthocerotophyta (Hornworts) Renzaglia et al System of Classification
	Fungi Hibbet et al System of Classification
	Algae Fritch et al System of Classification

(d) The ancient texts of India's heritage like Charakasamhita have information on medicinal plants nomenclature, classification systems and properties that have contributed substantially to the development of Ayurvedicmateriamedica.

The system of classification followed by BSI especially for flowering plants, cover the medicinal plants including those mentioned in the ancient texts like Charaka Samhita.